Georgia Board for Physician Workforce
Fact Sheet on Georgia’s Teaching Hospitals:
Training Physicians and Providing Healthcare to Georgians
January 2007

Graduate Medical Education Overview

Graduate medical education, or residency training, typically occurs at a teaching hospital and prepares a
physician to practice a specific specialty. Residency training takes a minimum of three years to complete
and follows graduation from medical school. Research has shown that graduates tend to establish practice
within a 50-mile radius of where they completed residency training.

In terms of structure, most residency programs are sponsored by teaching hospitals; however, other
health care institutions such as a medical school may also sponsor programs. Teaching hospitals in Georgia
range from hospitals with a single residency program to large academic medical centers sponsoring more
than 50 residency programs.

Graduate Medical Education Funding Sources

The largest source of funding for graduate medical education is the federal government, which provides
funding to pay for Medicare and Medicaid’s share of medical education costs. Teaching hospitals have
seen steady declines in federal reimbursement for medical education as a result of the Balanced
Budget Act of 1997. Other major sources of funding include: state government, teaching hospitals,
medical schools, research and education grants, and fees generated by teaching physicians who see
patients. The GBPW’s **FY 2007 budget** for graduate medical education totals **$6,712,221** in state
funds.

Georgia’s Graduate Medical Education Training Capacity

- The number of accredited residency positions in Georgia has increased by 14% over the last 6
  years (from 1,776 approved positions in 2000-2001 to 2,025 approved positions in 2006-2007).

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Why is it important to sustain Georgia’s teaching hospitals and graduate medical
education programs?

Teaching hospitals and resident physicians are an integral part of Georgia’s healthcare system. Approximately 2,000 resident physicians actively care for patients throughout their residency training. In addition, teaching hospitals contribute the following:

- train physicians for Georgia;
- provide specialized healthcare services;
- care for a disproportionate share of Georgia’s uninsured, under-insured, Medicaid, and
Medicare populations; and,
- serve as trauma centers (the majority of Georgia’s teaching hospitals are designated trauma
centers).

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  years (from 1,776 approved positions in 2000-2001 to 2,025 approved positions in 2006-2007).
A significant percentage of graduates from Georgia’s residency programs are staying in the state to practice. For example, the 5 year retention rate for graduates of Georgia’s Residency Programs is 62%. (This figure includes MCG’s Family Medicine Program, but excludes the other GME programs sponsored by MCG, which receive funding through the Board of Regents.)

What value does Grady Memorial Hospital provide to the state?

- Grady is Georgia’s largest teaching hospital and is staffed exclusively by doctors from Emory University School of Medicine and Morehouse School of Medicine.
- Approximately 54% of all resident physicians in the state complete a portion of their training at Grady.
- According to Grady’s website, 25% of all physicians practicing medicine in Georgia received some or all of their training at Grady. This statistic demonstrates that Grady trains physicians which serve the entire state – not just the metro Atlanta area.

Georgia’s Resident Physicians and Medical Students Number and Percent Rotating Through Grady

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of residents trained annually at Grady (regardless of the rotation length)(^1)</th>
<th>Emory</th>
<th>Morehouse</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage of Statewide Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>909</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>1036</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Total number of medical students trained annually at Grady\(^2\) | 450 | 200 | 650 | 36% |

Sources: (1) GBPW Residency Capitation Reports and Calculations; (2) Data from Grady

For more information, please contact the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce at (404) 206-5420 or 1718 Peachtree St, NW, Suite 683, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.